

## USAID ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՍՈՑԻԱԼԱԿԱՆ ԳԱՔԵՐԻ ԾՐԱԳՈՒՄԻՄԵՐԻ ԾՐԱԳԻՐ

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REPORT No 22

# ASSESSMENT OF THE CAPACITY OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN ARMENIA TO SUPPORT AST PILOT PROJECTS

Prepared by PADCO Armenia Social Transition Program

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE INTERNATIONAL

Development Solutions for the 21st Century

#### **PREFACE**

Under the Armenia Social Transition Program (AST) that PADCO is conducting under contract for USAID, PADCO is required to assess the capacity of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to support the work of the AST in implementing pilot programs to test new ways of delivering health and social services to the population of Armenia.

During the first year of the project, three pilot sites will be created – one each in Lori and Shirak Marzes and one in Yerevan City. At these sites, AST team members will support the Government of Armenia in restructuring health facilities and in developing new systems for improving the delivery of social services. In companion reports, the AST has outlined the work that will be conducted in Lori Marz and has described approaches to the testing of new appeals systems for recipients of social benefits and an integrated approach to delivering social benefits.

It is the intention of the AST to utilize – where feasible – NGOs to implement these pilot projects and to use NGOs in innovative ways to deliver social and health services.

A comprehensive workplan for developing NGO capacity will be developed by the AST by March 31, 2001. In this paper, the AST reports on a preliminary assessment on the capacity of NGOs to participate in these pilot programs. The purpose of the assessment is to identify NGOs that operate in relevant areas to the AST that have demonstrated the capacity to provide useful and effective services in the social sphere to the population of Armenia.

The final plan for the use of NGOs will be based on extensive interviews and negotiations with the NGOs identified in this report and also discussions with the four NGOs that will be conducting programs under a parallel project funded by USAID – the Social transition program.

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#### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. THE ROLE OF NGOS IN THE AST

The Armenia Social Transition Program (AST) includes a wide variety of tasks. An important element of the program is to develop the capacity of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to complement the work of government agencies and the private sector to help meet the needs of the Armenian population. The RFP specifically asked the AST to investigate and develop ways of

"Developing alternative mechanisms for providing social services and primary health care, through strengthening local NGO and service provider capacity, and pilot testing new approaches to addressing needs."

At the request of the Ministries of Social Security and Health, the AST is developing plans for the design and implementation of large-scale pilot projects in Lori and Shirak Marzes and in Yerevan City. These pilot projects will be designed to draw upon the innovative, integrated design of the AST to pilot new approaches to health care restructuring and the design of social services delivery to test better ways of providing the population of Armenia in these regions with better health and social services.

Non Governmental Organizations offer many advantages over governmental agencies: 1) They are not bound by such constraining rules and regulations; 2) They have flexibility in determining the population they can serve – rather than being compelled to deal with all eligible individuals or families; and 3) They have much greater flexibility in hiring staff and can use volunteers more easily than can GOA agencies.

#### 1.2. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

There are more than 2,500 NGOs registered in Armenia. Few are active and even fewer have demonstrated the ability to meet the type of broad public needs that will be needed in collaboration with the AST. Many NGOs have been created to reduce the burden of taxation for businesses providing social and health services to the population. Many NGOs are not run on a businesslike basis.

The challenge facing the AST is to identify those NGOs that serve a genuine public purpose and that would be capable of either assuming responsibilities from the public sector or of supplementing the work of public agencies by offering innovative and different types of public services that meet the expressed needs of the Armenian population.

There is no simple way of assessing the capacity of the 2,500 NGOs in meeting these needs. There is no "NGO Clearinghouse" that provides information about the activities of NGOs – their past records, evaluations of performance, or measures of how businesslike they are in approaching their tasks. It is hoped that the AST – in conjunction with the four winners of the RFA (United Methodist Campaign on Relief, the Armenian Assembly, Catholic Relief, and Save the Children) – will lead to a clearer system for identifying who is doing what in the NGO sector and, as important, with what success.

Therefore, this assessment is, of necessity, a working document. It reports on what the AST has discovered so far. The approach taken was in two stages: 1) Experts in the NGO filed were interviewed and asked to identify strong potential partners for the AST Program; and 2) E-mails were sent to a list of NGOs working in the social sector with a short questionnaire asking respondents to describe their activities and sponsors. The letter and questionnaire are shown in Attachment 1 to this report.

Based on this approach, NGOs were divided into three categories:

- 1) Those with a track record and experience that shows the potential for collaboration with the AST;
- 2) Those that expressed no interest in collaborating with the AST; and
- 3) Those that failed to respond either to telephone calls or e-mail messages and which are presumed to be inactive

This classification is not final. The AST will continue to monitor responses and to interview experts to expand the list of potential collaborators.

#### 1.3. NEXT STEPS

The AST team will continue to expand the list of potential collaborators – through expert interviews and through further communications. This will allow the expansion of the list of potential collaborators as mem-

bers of the NGO community become more familiar with the work of the AST and the goals and activities to be conducted in the pilot sites.

This report, therefore, should be regarded as a work in progress. We will continue to evaluate the work of Armenia's large population of NGOs. We will continue to add new potential collaborators and also to eliminate listed NGOs from the list of potential collaborators.

#### 1.4. OUTLINE OF REPORT

AST findings are summarized in three tables. The first lists those NGOs that have demonstrated the potential to be partners as collaborators in Lori or Shirak Marzes or in Yerevan City. The second lists those NGOs that responded and indicated no interest in participation. The third table lists those NGOs that failed to respond either to telephone messages to their place of business or their e-mail addresses.

#### 1.5. HIGHLIGHTS

#### 1.5.1. Yerevan

ASDGHIK Disabled Children's Parents Fund (No. 1), active, able and respected by Agencies and Ministries of RA, as well as by International NGOs.

MATERNITY FUND OF ARMENIA (No. 2), most visible in the maternity field. They are well organized. Good working history with most UN agencies.

MISSION ARMENIA (No. 3), probably most active NGO in the social service and humanitarian aid distribution fields. Good reputation.

FUTURE GENERATION UNION (No.4), collaborates well with ministries, universities, and Donors. Quite active.

TATEV Center for Psychological Support and Counseling (No.8), Credible organization in the mental health field. Willing to collaborate in the work of the PHCs.

#### 1.5.2. Gyumri

MEGHVIK CENTER (No. 15), accepted to be the premier NGO in Gyumri. They have been involved in a variety of projects financed by Int. donors

GUMRI ABAKAH (No. 16), there work seems average, but since there is not much competition, they would be acceptable.

WOMEN FOR DEVELOPMENT (No. 18), Well educated ladies employed at the Seismic Protection Agency, who have devoted their life to good health for women. They have implemented important projects

#### 1.5.3. Vanadzor

ARAGAST SOCIAL AGENCY (No. 19), Working with disabled children, but could be effective in other areas. Motivated people.

LIGHTSTAR NGO (No. 20) is an upstart but the director is well trained in social work, and is able to gather volunteers easily, which she is in a position to train.

YMCA (No. 21), no particular specialty but solid organization with well prepared volunteer groups

# TABLE 1: NGOs WITH PROMISING TRACK RECORD IN SOCIAL SPHERE

List of NGOs to be contacted were taken from "Who is who in Armenian NGOs" (sections: Children, Health, Humanitarian Aid, and Women issues.									
NGO details	Year	r Projects Size D	Donors	Number of people	Number of work- ers used		Remarks		
					reached	Paid	Volun- teers		
1. "ASDGHIK" Disabled Fund Children's Parents Union (Year founded: 1995) President: Levon Nersisyan Address: Charents St. No.1, 4 <sup>th</sup> . Floor, Yerevan 375025 Tel: 57-51-85; Fax: 151-119 E-mail: Levast@netsys.am	1996 to 2001	<ul> <li>Total 13 projects related to disabled children:</li> <li>assistance, care, treatment, training,</li> <li>public education thru town meetings, seminars,</li> <li>conferences, radio, television and printed media.</li> <li>Visits to U.S., France, Switzerland for training staff.</li> </ul>	Average of 13 pro- jects: \$9,000 each	OSAF STC UMCOR UNDP UNHCR UNICEF UNWOVAD WB WFP	Total of thirteen projects: 42,000 (however, to be taken into account that probably the beneficiaries are mostly the same in all the projects.	Average of thirteen programs: 3.7	Average of thirteen programs: 25	"ASDGHIK" is very experienced in the field of public education. Long experience with the media.  It has been involved in development of legislation pertaining to disabled children.  They work well with Int. NGOs, Govt. agencies and ministries. Parents of the disabled they serve form the core of their volunteers.	
2. Maternity Fund of Armenia (Year founded: 1989) Director: Susanna Aslanyan, David Anhacht No. 23 Yerevan Tel: 24-69-53, 23-12-57 E-mail: ana_can@infocom.am	1995 to 2001	Healthcare awareness building, job training for socially unprotected women.  Advocacy initiative of changing public policy, psycho-prophylaxis for pregnant women, information campaign for breast feeding	Average of ten pro- jects: \$6,700 each	EQUILI- BRESCT UMCOR UNDP UNHCR UNICEF	Total of ten projects: 16,796	Average of ten projects: 9.8	Average of ten projects: 17.2	Leading NGO serving childbearing women. Recognized as such by all UN agencies. Have good monitoring and surveying capability.	

List of NGOs to be conto	List of NGOs to be contacted were taken from "Who is who in Armenian NGOs" (sections: Children, Health, Humanitarian Aid, and Women issues.									
NGO details	Year	Projects	Size	Donors	Number of people	Number o ers u		Remarks		
					reached	Paid	Volun- teers			
3. Mission Armenia (Year founded: 1993) Hripsime Kirakosyan, Pres. Garegin Nzhdeh No. 42, Yerevan, 375007 Tel: 44-47-92, 44-47-93 Fax: 151954 E-mail:ripsik@arminco.com	1995 to 2001	In-home care, medical and social services to the non-institutionalized single older persons, public awareness campaign on disability, advocacy campaign on charity and elderly issues, senior citizen centers, soup kitchens.	Average of twenty even projects: \$114,351	AAA/NGOC ECHO EURASIA EU LIEN TACIS OSI Budapest OXFAM STP/USAID SWISS TUFENKIAN UNHCR WB	Total of twenty seven projects: 120,818	Average of twenty seven projects: 22	Average of twenty seven projects: 16	Very capable, good reputation. Regional experience, have excess capacity.  All figures reflect the inclusion of an STP contract in the amount of \$1,956,658 from UMCOR affecting 84,000 households (for this assessment figured as 84,000 people).		
4. Future Generation Union (Year founded: 1995) Rafael Vardanyan, Pres. M. Baghramian No, 61/7, Yerevan, 375033 Tel: 27-65-19, Fax: 54-40-15 E-mail: futgen@netsys.am	1995 to 2001	Health care awareness raising sanitation and hygiene education health info publication, drinking water pipeline, revolving drug fund, help inclusion of vulnerable groups in welfare system, school and health post infrastructure rehabilitation. Summer camping for children.	Average of eight- een pro- jects: \$43,355	CRS FAR IOM OSI MOSS NOVIB OXFAM UNHCR	Total of eighteen projects: 105,840	Average of eight- een pro- jects: 11.4	Average of eighteen projects: 20.7	Very visible, collaborates with universities and ministries, is one of the founders and a board member of the Consortium of Reproductive Health and Social Welfare.		

List of NGOs to be conta	List of NGOs to be contacted were taken from "Who is who in Armenian NGOs" (sections: Children, Health, Humanitarian Aid, and Women issues.									
NGO details	Year	Projects	Size Donors		Number of people	Number of work- ers used		Remarks		
					reached	Paid	Volun- teers			
5. People For Healthy Life- style (Year founded: 1995) Narine Ghazanchyan, Dir Amiryan No. 24, apt. 40, Yerevan, Tel: 53-08-54, E- mail: anoushg@hotmail.com; anahit@netsys.am; anahit@umcor.am	1996 to 2001	Health education thru anti smoking booklet & educational classes to children 10-14, needs assessment, Providing information, education and services on family planning, sexual and reproductive health, advocacy for reproductive health rights, implementation of Heifer livestock project	Average of nine projects: \$42,431	ADRA NGOC OXFAM UMCOR UNHCR	Total of nine projects: 56,912	Average of nine projects: 4.3	Average of nine projects: 6.8	Good management, regional activity, capable of public education, partnership and collaboration.		
6. Support to Communities (Year founded: 1999) Karen Arakelian, Dir. Toumanian No. 9, Yerevan Tel: 53-58-68; Mobile: 41- 30-97 E-mail: stc@netsys.am	2000	Provision of safe water, construction, rehabilitation and refurbishment of health facilities, community based insurance, revolving drug fund, supplying essential medicines and equipment to primary health facilities, information gathering, baseline surveys, public education, training	Average of three projects: \$80,630	ECHO UMCOR UNHCR	Total of three projects: 34,590	Average of three projects: 3.5	Average of three projects: 6.3	Support to communities has evolved from Oxfam's public health team in Armenia. Its staff is comprised of former Oxfam staff and community members from the community based PHC program in the Vayotz Dzor Marz.  Have experience with setting up primary health centers and training staff.		
7. Mental Health Foundation (Year founded: 1996) Dr, Arman Vardanyan, Dir. P.O. BOX 29, Yerevan, 375010, Tel: 54-45-04; Fax: 54-45-04, E-mail: office@ mentalhealth.am	1999 to 2001	Psychiatric treatment, care, and rehabilitation of adults and children, psychological support, policy development, primary health care programs, NGO sector development, and public awareness programs.	Average of six projects: \$27,500	DFID EC HAMLET TR OSI-NY UMCOR	Total of six projects: 2610	Average of six projects: 4	Average of six projects: 3	Have worked in the regions, good public education capability, visible thru the media.		

List of NGOs to be contacted were taken from "Who is who in Armenian NGOs" (sections: Children, Health, Humanitarian Aid, and Women issues.									
NGO details	Year	Projects	Size Dono	Donors	Number of people	Number of work- ers used		Remarks	
					reached	Paid	Volun- teers		
8. "TATEV" Center for Psychological support and counseling	1996 to 2001	Provide psychosocial services to vulnerable groups with mental health prob-	Average of eight projects:	Largest grant of \$42,500 from IN-	Total of eight projects: 15,325	Average of eight projects:	Average of eight pro-	Capable of psychiatric assistance to persons with mental health problems within the	
(Year founded: 1995) Anahid Tevosyan, Dir.		lems, educational programs for doctors, nurses, social workers, teachers and psy-	\$8,200	TERMINDS (UK)		3.3	jects: 4.8	primary health care system	
Baghramian No. 2,apt.42, Yerevan, 375019		chologists, information gathering and disseminating.		Ministry of Education MOSS+SELF GENER-					
Tel: 56-23-00, 58-06-56									
Fax: 58-06-56				ATED FUNDS,					
E-mail: atev@freenet.am  9. "ZORAVIG"	1999	Health care, education, rec-	N/A	Funds are gen-	N/A	2 (total)	25 (to-	Active in worthwhile pro-	
(Year founded: 1988)	to	reation, culture, humanitar-	1 <b>N</b> /A	erated from	IN/A	2 (total)	tal)	jects, with no visible donors,	
Anahid Paronian, Director	2001	ian aid, legal assistance,				,	however they claim to have		
Bakunts 12, IV Nork district, Yerevan				fees, contribu- tions from enterprises, and				collaborated with: ministries, municipalities in Gyumri and Vanadzor, UN-	
Tel: 63-65-67				donations from				WFP, UMCOR, Courts of	
Emailzoravig@freenet.am				people in Armenia and Diaspora.				Yerevan, AAA/NGOC, and the Young Lawyer's Union.	
10. Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Envi- ronment (Year founded: 1999) Elena Manvel Ian, Director Saryan 24, apt. 65, Yerevan	2000 to 2001	Environment and reproductive health, monitoring management of medical waste disposal, information campaigns	Average of five projects: \$2,850	IPEN ALTMAN- M.CAPER FOUNDA- TION, TIDES-	N/A	1 (total)	3 (total)		
Tel: 58-50-86, 34-41-82 E-mail: Elena@awhhe.am danelik@freenet.am				FOUNDA- TION. HCWH-USA					

List of NGOs to be conta	List of NGOs to be contacted were taken from "Who is who in Armenian NGOs" (sections: Children, Health, Humanitarian Aid, and Women issues.									
NGO details	Year	Projects	Size Donors	Donors	Number of people	Number of work- ers used		Remarks		
					reached	Paid	Volun- teers			
11. Apaven Int. Charitable Social Organization (Year founded: 1989) Narine Balayan, Director Eznik Kokhbatsy 69, Yerevan 375002 Tel: 53-80-97; Fax: 24-75-42	1996 to 2001	Social programs, financial assistance food, clothes and medicine, medical assistance to orphanages, the elderly and disabled, organize emergency medical aid to metro travelers, some experience in public education.	Average of four projects: \$7,750	Funds from Italy and Portugal in 1996 & support from local members and private donors	Total of four projects: 15,300	None	250 (total)	Director also directs the National Institute of Labor and Social Research of the Ministry of Social Security		
12. Women's Rights Center (Year founded: 1990) Susanna Vardanyan, Dir. Abovian 21, apt. 13, Yerevan Tel: 54-28-28; Fax: 58-28-05 E-mail: wrcarm@arminco.com	1990 to 2001	Women's rights issues, especially anti-spousal abuse, reproductive and sexual life, surveys of violence against women, several publications in Armenian, English and Russian, utilization all aspects of the media for public education including several focus groups.	Information not currently available	"SOCIOME- TER" SO- CIOLOGI- CAL INDE- PENDENT CENTER IN YEREVAN MINNE- SOTA HU- MAN RIGHTS ADVO- CATES	N/A	6	31	Recently has Received a WINROCK Foundation grant.  Could be advisor/councilor to the development of an anti - spousal abuse in coordination with police and social services.		
13. Medical Prevention and Aid Association (Year founded: 1998) Karen Karakyan, Pres. Vartanants 8, room 402, Yerevan, Tel: 54-19-41, 54-04-55; 45-19-23, Fax: 45-19-23, Email: root@ami.unet. intarnet.com	1999 to 2001	Medical consultation and aid, information and advice on alcohol and drug abuse, health issues and eye examinations.	Minimal	MSF and self generated funds	N/A	None	8 (volunteer doctors)	The doctors appear to be dedicated to charity. Question is there a place for volunteer doctors in the PHCCs.		

List of NGOs to be contacted were taken from "Who is who in Armenian NGOs" (sections: Children, Health, Humanitarian Aid, and Women issues.																										
NGO details	Year	Projects	Size Donors	Number of people	Number of work- ers used		Remarks																			
					reached	Paid	Volun- teers																			
14. "Hippocrat" Free Medical Service	2000	Information materials on healthy living, Medical-	Minimal	Self generated funds.	N/A	None	2 (volunteer	Same as #13																		
(Year Founded: 2000)		social mini surveys, medical service and medication to					doctors)																			
Levon Gotanchyan,Dir.		the vulnerable/																								
Yerevan		1																								
Tel: 52-42-00; Fax: 56-37- 91																										
Email: haskhach@ freenet.am																										
15. Meghvik Center (Gyumri)	1990 to	Training for sanitary and healthy living, sex education	Average seven pro-	ARMENIA FUND	84,000	Average of seven	Average of seven	The premier NGO in Gyumri.																		
(Year founded: 1989)	2001	for boys and girls, Bathing	jects: \$42,000		EURASIA		projects:	pro-																		
Vehanoush Hovanessian, Dir		facilities, baking dietetic bread for patients with dia- betes, renovating a docated			\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000			\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000			\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$42,000	FINLAND FUND		4
Nizami 52, Gyumri		building for a social service		STC																						
Tel: 041-4-2964; Fax: 041-4-2964 (5)		center, public education campaign for the USAID		TUFENKIAN FUND																						
E-mail:meghvik@shirak.am		sponsored voucher system in the earthquake zone.		UNHCR																						
16. Gyumri Abakah	2000	Establishment of a center for	MSF																							
(Year founded: 2000)	to 2001	education and culture where courses in fourteen disci-	and self																							
Kakik Adanyan, Director		plines are given. medical	generated																							
Kordzararain No. 5, Bulvarian Neighborhood, Gyumri		service with a therapist, surgeon and dentist	funds																							
Tel: 041-3-1147 (H)																										
Email: avag@shirak.am																										

List of NGOs to be conto	acted we	re taken from "Who is who i	n Armenian	NGOs" (sectio	ns: Children, H	lealth, Hum	anitarian	Aid, and Women issues.
NGO details	Year	Projects	Size	Donors	Number of people	Number of work- ers used		Remarks
					reached	Paid	Volun- teers	
17. YMCA – Ozone (Gyumri) (Year founded: 1992) Khoren Papoyan, Pres. Baruyr Sevag No,11, Gyumri Tel: 041-3-2994	1992 to 2001	Teaching youngsters democracy, motivation, character building, dietary and medical service by a physician.	N/A	CARE DJINISHIAN STC YMCA-USA	NA	18 (total)	65 (to-tal)	Operates similar to YMCA –USA, however it is funded primarily by an Armenian family from Rhode Island,
18. Women for Development (Year founded: 1997) Armine Mikayelyan, Dir. V. Sargsyan 5a, Gyumri, 377500 Tel: 041-3-2909, Fax: 041-3- 1580 E-mail: armine@shirak.am	1997 to 2001	Raise women's awareness of contagious diseases, Seismic education for adults and children and teachers, stimulating women's participation in health care issues.	Average of four projects: \$8.364	GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN, INST. OF OPEN SOCI- ETY, USAID UNICEF	N/A	None	na	Good reputation, but their excess capacity must be verified before entrusting them with additional work.
19. Aragast Social Agency Vanadzor (Year founded: 1992) Melania Mirzoyan, Dir. Tigran Medz 36, Vanadzor Tel: 051-23419, 23591, 4-6780 E-mail: beblaze@yahoo com	1992 to 2001	Established rehabilitation center "Arevik" for preparing disabled children to attend regular school. Conferences sponsored by YSU and Frankfurt am Mein University Training project "Equal opportunities for disabled people".	average OF Three projects: \$8,000	UMCOR WORLD BANK	N/A	Average of three projects: 3	N/a	Dedicated people. Recommended highly.

List of NGOs to be contacted were taken from "Who is who in Armenian NGOs" (sections: Children, Health, Humanitarian Aid, and Women issues.										
NGO details	Year	Projects	Size Donors	Number of people	Number of work- ers used		Remarks			
		, and the second			reached	Paid	Volun- teers			
20. Lightstar NGO (Vanadzor) (Year founded 19 XX) Nune Papayan, Director Tel: 051-23419 50062 (home)		Collaborates on projects of Aragast (# 19)	Minimal	N/A	N/A	None	3	Director is graduate of YSU's Social Workers training program. In addition, she has made two trips to Germany for training in rehabilitation of invalid children.		
21. YMCA (Vanadzor) (Year founded: 19XX) Address: City Playground Tel: 051-44471		Teaching young men social ethics, English and computer. Child center for three hours daily for 3 to 7 year olds. Planning a center for retired people	Minimal	Armenian family from Rhode Island. and funds from members and local and diaspora donors.	N/A	4	45			

Other NGOs were contacted, some showed no interest at all, and some did not respond. The two groups are listed below.

# TABLE 2: THOSE NGOS THAT EXPRESSED "NO INTEREST" IN PADCO TELEPHONE CALLS AND E-MAILS.

- Armenian Large Family Shirazi Relief Fund
- Armenian Teenagers Cuktural Union
- Armenian Relief Cross
- Armenian "Vahan" Youth Center
- Association of Family Planning Services
- Bridge and Hope NGO
- Charity Union, Arin-Berd
- Diabetes Assistance Center
- Goy Charitable Fynd
- Health to your people
- Heritage Charity Union
- Hope and Help Union
- Khatchadur Badalian Children's Stomatology Ass. •
- Life Stream Charitable Fund
- Vanadzor Women's Council
- Will and Inspiration Union of Handicapped
- Work and Charity
- Yerevak Charity Fund

## TABLE 3: THOSE NGO'S THAT DID NOT RESPOND

- Armenian Children's Fund
- Bloekomed
- Charity for Republic
- Healthy Generation
- Peace Armenia